Westborough Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Minutes of January 12, 2016 meeting @6 pm

Attending: Ed Beauchemin (arrived 6:55 pm), Don Burn, Howard Drake, Ellen Gugel, Glenn McCleod, Bruce Tretter
Guest: Gary Wells, Finance Committee Chair

1. Approved December 8 meeting minutes

2. BPAC Membership: Brendan Hanrahan, a Mill Road resident, wrote to Selectmen interested in being appointed to BPAC. He is scheduled to appear on January 26 at the Selectmen's meeting for a vote.

3. Town Meeting

Warrant articles due January 21. Bruce proposes two articles:

a. funding for additional flashing crosswalk signage ($5,700/pair). Malloy suggests four sets. Possible locations are the high school, Veterans Freedom Park, Chauncy Lake, Fales School, and Town Hall/Forbes crossing.

b. funding to build 1/3 mile trail from East Main to Lyman (costs are $4,600 for tree clearing based on quote; cost of crosswalk signage; and vehicle barriers). Bruce estimates $17,000 total.

Don expressed multiple concerns about the second article – abutter notification not addressed; the 1/3 mile empties cyclists out at a Level 3 intersection (state definition that only 6% of cyclists feel comfort enough to use) at Lyman St; no trail design addressing drainage; neither end has an easement secured. Discussion followed.

The idea of TM articles was new to BPAC members, and so decided to meet Tuesday, January 19 in a special meeting to see draft articles and discuss.

4. Meetings

Bruce reported that he has multiple meetings coming up with various town officials on which he will report back to the committee:

a. 1/14, Thursday, with Jim Robbins and Randy Waterman about plan to proceed with BWALT easements
b. 1/13, Wednesday, with John Walden, Jim Malloy, Carl Balduf, and Al Gordon regarding TM articles
c. 1/11, Monday (yesterday), with Jim Malloy regarding Rotary RSA priorities

5. Easements

Don brought up for discussion a possible third TM article requesting funding for the remaining easement costs. Title searches are an issue (~$3,500 each?). As much as $50,000 to finish them may be needed?

Don and others reiterated the need for an easement process. There are six easements that were agreed to in concept by landowners over a year and a half ago, but stalled when town attorney was let go. Longo, Motla, SVT, Prentice Forest. "Meets and bounds" (surveys) needed but no money left from previous TM articles to finish them and complete the process.

It was flagged that the Town does not have a process in place for obtaining easements. Action? Bruce will address with town officials.

6. Complete Streets: Jim Robbins, Carl Balduf and John Walden attended (or will) the required info sessions. We discussed offering, as a committee, to assist with the process however we can. A Complete Streets policy must be approved by July 1 by Selectmen. Then the Town will be eligible for grants up to $50,000 for bicycle/pedestrian improvements. Nearby towns have done so, including Marlborough and Framingham. Bruce will bring it up tomorrow at his meeting with John and Carl.

7. Bicycle/Pedestrian Legislation: Committee agreed to send a letter to the Joint Committee on Transportation and copy our state legislators in support of the Vulnerable Road Users bill. Ellen drafted letter for Bruce's signature.

8. Events/Education

Saturday, May 7, Springfest. Bruce spoke with Rotary Club about getting listed in the brochure this year. He also contacted Galen Mook at Landry's about running a bike rodeo again this year. David White is providing kids' helmets again. Coverage may be weak – several BPAC members out of town that weekend including Nancy. Reach out to high school National Honor Society for assistance?

Saturday, March 19, Mission in Motion at the YMCA.

Bruce met with Allen Grady Recreation Dept Manager who asked about a bike ride. Perhaps merge with Springfest as a "Family Ride"?

9. Upcoming meetings:

Tuesday, January 19 to discuss TM articles at 6 pm
Tuesday, February 9 regular meeting at 6 pm, Kristi Williams Assistant Town Manager guest